

BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES

Dear Educator,

We are thrilled to share **BUILD STRONG FAMILIES WITH STORIES**, a joint initiative of First Book and Search Institute, with generous support from Disney. This diverse collection of 21 books with downloadable reading guides is designed to help families grow stronger.

Strong families support a child's success in school and in life. Through ongoing research, Search Institute has identified actions, called Family Strengths, that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger together. Search Institute research has shown that these Family Strengths can have an even larger impact on a child's well-being than family income, immigration status, education level, neighborhood or other demographic factors. The Family Strengths fall into six categories:

- ★ EXPRESSING CARE
- ★ CHALLENGING GROWTH
- ★ PROVIDING SUPPORT
- ★ EXPANDING POSSIBILITIES
- ★ CREATING ROUTINES AND TRADITIONS
- ★ CONNECTING TO YOUR COMMUNITY

The books (appropriate for children ages 4 to 8) each model behaviors that families can adopt in order to grow stronger. Every title is paired with a downloadable reading guide designed for parents and caregivers that includes activities, discussion prompts and key ideas to take away from the story.

Send these books and reading guides home to families, or use them in your own classroom or program! We hope these resources will help you engage families while empowering them to build upon their own strengths and help their children succeed.

Happy Reading!

Your friends at First Book and Search Institute



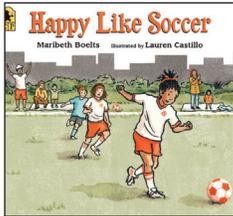
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Family Strengths are actions that **ALL FAMILIES** can take to grow stronger and support a child's success, according to Search Institute research. This guide will help you discuss this story with your child and use it to explore your family's unique strengths.

A Family Strength in this story is

INVESTING:

committing time and energy in doing things for and with your child.



HAPPY LIKE SOCCER

by Maribeth Boelts; illustrated by Lauren Castillo

Sierra is disappointed that her hard-working aunt always misses her soccer games, until she finds a creative solution to their problem that feels like a big win for everyone.

THIS STORY MODELS INVESTING



Happy Like Soccer shows how you can express care for the people you love by spending time and energy doing things for and with them. Think about how:

- Even though she can't attend, Sierra's aunt helps her get ready for every soccer game and spends time listening to Sierra talk about what happened.
- When they learn her aunt can change her schedule and come to a game, Sierra and her aunt celebrate together.
- When the game is cancelled, Sierra's aunt spends time with her and does fun things that help Sierra feel better.
- Because Sierra loves her aunt and wants to share her favorite activity with her, Sierra feels brave enough to ask her coach if he can move their soccer game.
- Sierra's aunt attends the neighborhood soccer game and cheers loudly for Sierra.

TRY THIS!



Invest time and energy in reading with your child for at least a few minutes every day. Reading for pleasure together will give your family a peaceful and enjoyable break in the day. Talk about what you read, and give everyone opportunities to learn and share.

TALK AND ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS AS YOU READ



- ★ Soccer makes Sierra happy, but it also makes her sad. ASK: *Why does she feel both ways? Are there things that make you happy but also make you sad too?*
- ★ Sierra's aunt has to work on Saturdays. ASK: *How does Sierra's aunt encourage and support her, even when she can't go to Sierra's games?*
- ★ Talk with your child about the people in your life who have cheered you on and how that made you feel. ASK: *Why do you think it is important that we cheer each other on?*
- ★ Sierra asks her coach to hold the make-up game when her aunt can come. ASK: *Why do you think it is so important to Sierra that her aunt sees her play?*

INVESTING is an action you can take in your family to express care for one another. Learn more at www.ParentFurther.com.



www.firstbook.org



Discovering what kids need to succeed



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This tipsheet was created by First Book and Search Institute, with generous support from Disney.